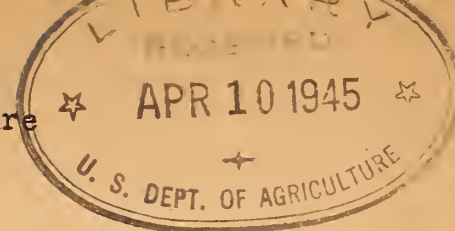


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FOOD INFORMATION SERIES
United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Information
Washington 25, D. C.



August 25, 1943

No. 57

Subject: September Farm Labor Jobs

Field distribution: War Board members, Extension Editors, BAE Analysts, FDA Marketing Reports Chiefs, SCS, FSA, FCA Regional Information Chiefs

Suggested Use: Background information

With the approach of the peak harvest season, American farmers are tapping all available sources for farm workers. Principal farm labor jobs during September include cotton picking and corn harvesting throughout the Cotton Belt, and also corn harvesting in the General Farming Area. Cotton picking will require 400,000,000 man-hours, while corn harvesting in the two areas will require almost 200,000,000 man-hours.

These are not necessarily the areas where labor shortages will appear, however. Indications are that the labor "hot spots" may be: (1) The Southeast, where both cotton and peanuts are produced; (2) the sugarcane and rice areas of southern Louisiana and the rice area of southeastern Texas; (3) the truck-crop regions of New York and the New England States; (4) the fruit and vegetable areas of the Pacific coast; and (5) the potato areas of Maine, Idaho, North Dakota, and Minnesota.

The BAE Farm Labor Report for August indicated that about 11,000,000 persons were working on farms of the United States on August 1. This was a decline of approximately 6 percent from the July 1 peak. Although this decline was normal, it is still a decrease of 2 percent from August 1, 1942. Indications are that this figure will again rise to about 11,750,000 workers by the next peak, which will come about October 1.

In the place of experienced workers, farm operators this year have been forced to take a large number of women and youth. Because this type of worker is less efficient and because, in many cases, these workers are available for only part-time employment, the task of recruiting and placing farm workers to meet these needs is even more serious than the figures indicate.

Expressed in terms of full-time efficient workers, the farm labor force in September has usually been more than 12,000,000. Much of the additional labor force needed in September to harvest the large acreage of crops grown in 1943, must be mobilized locally from the towns and cities. Consequently, it may be necessary to recruit considerably more than a million prospective part-time inexperienced workers to obtain the equivalent of the full-time experienced harvest workers who have left the farms for the armed forces and wartime industries.

Reports from over the country indicate that the U. S. Crop Corps is now established as a vital part of the agricultural program. Farmers were asked to increase production to meet war needs on the assumption that extra help would be available at harvesttime. This extra help is now coming mostly from high school and college students, housewives, and "white-collar" workers. With some of the most difficult farm labor peaks coming in September and October, there is every indication that farmers and their families will have to lengthen their work week, which is already about 75 hours (for farm operators), and that a complete mobilization of all available labor will be necessary.

Every effort to help recruit workers for local labor needs and some interstate movement will be necessary in almost every county in September. Though Nation-wide appeals will be made throughout the month, specific needs can be determined only on a local basis, and it is the local appeal for which prospective workers should listen. The farm labor battle will be won or lost in the local communities.

MAJOR FARM LABOR NEEDS IN SEPTEMBER

<u>Area</u>	<u>Estimated man-hours needed</u>
<u>Dairy Belt</u> (Conn., Maine, Mass., Mich., eastern Minn., N. H., northern N. J., N. Y., northeastern Ohio, northern Pa., R. I., Vt., Wis.)	
Oats - harvesting	10,500,000
Apples - harvesting	7,350,000
Peaches - picking	2,500,000
Snap beans - harvesting	900,000
Irish potatoes - harvesting (also in N. Dak.)	15,000,000
Tomatoes - harvesting	2,000,000
<u>General Farming Area</u> (Del., Ky., Md., southern N. J., northern N. C., southern Ohio, southern Pa., Tenn., Va., W. Va.)	
Corn - harvesting	67,000,000
Winter wheat - harvesting and marketing	4,000,000
Peanuts - harvesting	1,500,000
Apples - harvesting	12,500,000
Peaches - picking	2,500,000
Snap beans - harvesting	750,000
Irish potatoes - harvesting	1,750,000
Tobacco - harvesting and curing	29,000,000
<u>Cotton Belt</u> (Ala., Ark., Ga., La., Miss., southern N. C., eastern Okla., S. C., eastern and central Texas.)	
Corn - harvesting	120,000,000
Cotton - picking (also Ariz., Calif., N. Mex.)	400,000,000
Tobacco - harvesting and curing (Ga., N. C., S. C.) . .	99,000,000
Peanuts - harvesting	15,000,000

<u>Area</u>	<u>Estimated man-hours needed</u>
<u>Corn Belt</u> (Ill., Ind., Iowa, northeastern Kansas, northern Mo., eastern Nebr., northwestern Ohio, southeastern S. Dak.)	
Corn - harvesting	30,000,000
Oats - harvesting	8,000,000
Winter wheat - harvesting and marketing	1,500,000
Winter wheat - preparing and planting	15,000,000
Apples - harvesting	1,200,000
Tomatoes - harvesting	1,800,000
<u>Spring-Wheat Area</u> (western Minn., northeastern Mont., N. Dak., north central Oreg., northeastern S. Dak., western Wash.)	
Spring wheat - harvesting and marketing	10,400,000
<u>Winter-Wheat Area</u> (eastern Colo., Kans., southwestern Nebr., western Okla., north central Oreg., northwestern Tex., western Wash.)	
Winter wheat - preparing and planting	50,000,000
<u>Special Areas</u>	
Citrus fruits - harvesting (Calif., Fla., Tex.) . . .	1,400,000
Dry, edible beans - harvesting (Calif., Idaho, Mich., N. Y.)	6,000,000
Hops - picking (Wash., Oreg., Calif.)	5,400,000
Peaches - picking (Calif.)	2,800,000
Apples - picking (Calif., Wash., Idaho)	6,000,000
Miscellaneous vegetables - harvesting (Calif.) . . .	3,000,000
Sugar beets - harvesting (Ariz., Calif., western Colo., Idaho, Mich., Mont., northwestern Nebr., Nev., N. Mex., Ohio, western S. Dak., southwestern Tex., Utah, Wyo.)	6,000,000
Hay - cutting and storing (Ariz., Calif., western Colo., Idaho, Mont., northwestern Nebr., Nev., N. Mex., Oreg., western S. Dak., southwestern Tex., Utah, Wash., Wyo.)	5,000,000

